

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in the present application.

As previously submitted in the Interview Summary Record, dated February 13, 2008, a telephonic interview was held on February 13, 2008 with Examiner Woldemariam, during which time, the undersigned and the Examiner discussed the prematurity of the finality of the Office Action, dated October 18, 2007, and the language of independent claim 1.

During the telephonic interview of February 13, 2008, Examiner Woldemariam indicated that the claim language describing the claimed vector needed further clarification. During the telephonic interview, the undersigned and Examiner Woldemariam agreed to amendments to claim 1 to clarify the claim language describing the claimed vector.

It was agreed in the Interview of February 13, 2008 that independent claim 1 would be amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Interview Agreed upon Amendments) A method for descreening a digital image comprising:

(a) selecting a cut-off frequency and designing therefrom a one-dimensional separable low pass filter (LP), one-dimensional separable low pass filter LP being a row vector having entries $[Z_{X-n}, Z_{X-(n-1)}, \dots, Z_{X_0}, \dots, Z_{X_{n-1}}, Z_{X_n}]$, wherein n is an integer;

(b) obtaining a two-dimensional separable filter (LPP) by performing the operation: $LP^* \times LP$, LP^* being a column vector having the same entries as one-dimensional separable low pass filter LP, two-dimensional separable filter LPP having dimensions given by: $\{2n+1, 2n+1\}$;

(c) generating a two-dimensional contour plot for the two-dimensional filter LPP;

(d) designing a one-dimensional separable high pass filter (HP), one-dimensional separable high pass filter HP being a row vector having entries $[Y_{-m}, Y_{-(m-1)}, \dots, Y_0, \dots, Y_{m-1}, Y_m]$, wherein m is an integer;

(e) obtaining a two-dimensional separable filter (HPP) by performing the operation: $HP^* \times HP$, HP^* being a column vector having the same entries as one-dimensional separable high pass filter HP, two-dimensional separable filter HPP having dimensions: $\{2m+1, 2m+1\}$;

(f) generating a two-dimensional contour plot for the two-dimensional filter HPP;

(g) generating a two-dimensional filter (ONE) when the two-dimensional contour plot for the two-dimensional separable filter LPP overlaps the two-dimensional contour plot for the two-dimensional separable filter HPP, two-dimensional filter ONE having the same dimensions of two-dimensional separable filter HPP with the only non-zero entry of value 1 being located at the center of two-dimensional filter ONE;

(h) subtracting two-dimensional separable filter HPP from two-dimensional filter ONE to create matrix (HPPinv);

(i) convolving two-dimensional separable filter LPP with matrix HPPinv to obtain non-separable filter DSCRN having dimensions: $\{2m+2n+1, 2m+2n+1\}$;

(j) generating a two-dimensional contour plot for non-separable filter DSCRN;

(k) selecting two-dimensional separable filter LLP and two-dimensional separable filter HHP when the two-dimensional contour plot for non-separable filter DSCRN is an approximation to a desired circular symmetry;

(l) repeating (a)-(j) when the two-dimensional contour plot for non-separable filter DSCRN is not an approximation to a desired circular symmetry;

(m) electronically applying the selected two-dimensional separable filter LLP to a digital image to produce a first filtered image;

(n) electronically applying the selected two-dimensional separable filter HHP to a digital image to produce a second filtered image; and

(o) subtracting the second filtered image from the first filtered image to generate a descreened digital image.

Notwithstanding the agreed upon amendments, as set forth above, the Examiner has issued an Examiner's Amendment that amends claim 1 in a manner not authorized by the undersigned.

For example, the Examiner has amended claim 1 to recite "n is an integer" at two different instances. The undersigned did not authorize this amendment, nor would the undersigned authorize such an amendment due to the confusion raised by the two recitations.

It is respectfully submitted that the two recitations of "n is an integer" raises the question "Are these two instances are independent of each other and thus the n's are different variables with the same identifier?" Thus, the Examiner's amendment is improper.

Moreover, the Examiner has amended claim 1 to read, "(d) designing a one-dimensional separable high pass filter (LLP), one-dimensional separable high pass filter HP being a row vector having entries $[Y_{-m}, Y_{-(m-1)}, \dots Y_0, \dots Y_{m-1}, Y_m]$, m is an integer." The undersigned did not authorize this amendment, nor would the undersigned authorize such an amendment due to the confusion raised by identifying the one-dimensional separable high pass filter in a first instance as LLP and identifying the one-dimensional separable high pass filter in a second instance as HP.

It is respectfully submitted that the two recitations of the one-dimensional separable high pass filter raises the question "Are these two instances are independent of each other and thus the two instances of the recitation of the one-dimensional separable high pass filter are different filters?" Thus, the Examiner's amendment is improper.

Furthermore, it is respectfully noted that the Examiner's Amendment is dated two days before the actual interview. Thus, the record is unclear as whether the Examiner truly had authorization to make the amendments to claim 1 as presented in the Examiner's Amendment dated February 11, 2008.

Lastly, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant should not suffer any reduction in the Patent Term Adjustment for the above-identified application due to the filing of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.312(a) because the filing of this amendment was necessitated by the Examiner authorized amendments to claim 1.

In summary, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's amendments to claim 1 be disregarded and the amendments set forth above be entered. Also, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant should not suffer any reduction in the Patent Term Adjustment for the above-identified application due to the filing of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.312(a).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Nickerson', with a stylized, cursive script.

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